



STAR WARS
EMPIRE'S END
1 OF 2

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STAR WARS

EMPIRE'S END



PORTMAN

VEITCH
BAIKIE

STAR WARS[®]

EMPIRE'S END

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Triumph of the Empire

With the birth of Leia and Han's third child, Anakin Solo, Luke Skywalker feels a surge of hope for the future of the Jedi Knights.

But it is a dark time for the Rebel Alliance: deploying Umak Leth's new terror weapon, Emperor Palpatine has once again asserted his technological dominance over the galaxy.

No planet, no space fleet, is safe from the destructive power of lightspeed projectiles that can set off nucleonic chain reactions anywhere in the galaxy.

In a demonstration of power, Pinnacle Moon and its Rebel Command Base have been destroyed by the weapon, and the Alliance has been driven into hiding.

Numerous systems sympathetic to the Rebel cause have rapidly capitulated to this new Imperial threat of total annihilation.

Secreted on the Nespis VIII space city, Mon Motha and her generals vow to fight on. Troopships and heavy armor are directed against Imperial supply ports and shipyards . . . and, without success, against the Galaxy Gun itself.

Meanwhile, Luke Skywalker and his small band of Jedi have the critical task of protecting Leia's children, who are the future of the Jedi. Most urgently, Luke and the Jedi hope to draw the Emperor into a face-to-face confrontation that will end his dark reign — and restore peace to the galaxy — for all time to come.

05545.

LUKE SKYWALKER HAS
ASKED THE YSANNA
WARRIORS TO GUARD
THE JEDI RUINS UNTIL
HE RETURNS.

FOR A THOUSAND YEARS
AND MORE, THE YSANNA
HAVE FEARED THE POWER
OF THIS PLACE.

BUT NOW THEY ARE
BEGINNING TO
UNDERSTAND...THE
YSANNA ARE DESCENDED
FROM JEDI.

THEY MUST BEGIN TO
THINK AS JEDI...THEY
MUST BEGIN TO LIVE
AS JEDI.

THEY MUST BEGIN
TO USE THE FORCE...
AS JEDI DO.

TSAN MAKAO!
THROUGH THE FORCE THAT
IS FOCUSED IN THIS ANCIENT
JEDI MEDITATION CHAMBER, WE
CAN SENSE OTHER PLACES AND
DISTANT FRIENDS...



MY BROTHERS, I SEE
TERRIBLE EVENTS,
THINGS WHICH MAKE
MY HEART CRY OUT--

--I FEAR WE MADE
A GRAVE ERROR WHEN
WE ALLOWED OUR CHILDREN,
JEM AND RAYF, TO GO
WITH LUKE SKYWALKER.

BUT CHIEF
OKKO... HOW CAN
THAT BE? TELL US
WHAT YOU SEE!



PASSADEO KROVA!
MY DAUGHTER... JEM...
DEAD.



NEKOUDA!
JEM IS DEAD?



SURELY, OKKO, YOU
DO NOT SEE CLEARLY,
BEING LITTLE
ADVANCED IN JEDI
MEDITATION.



NO, I SEE IT, TOO.
THE DARK SIDE OF
THE FORCE GROWS
STRONGER THROUGH-
OUT THE
GALAXY.



SKYWALKER WAS
FOOLISH TO THINK HE
COULD REVIVE THE
JEDI... I KNOW THAT
NOW.

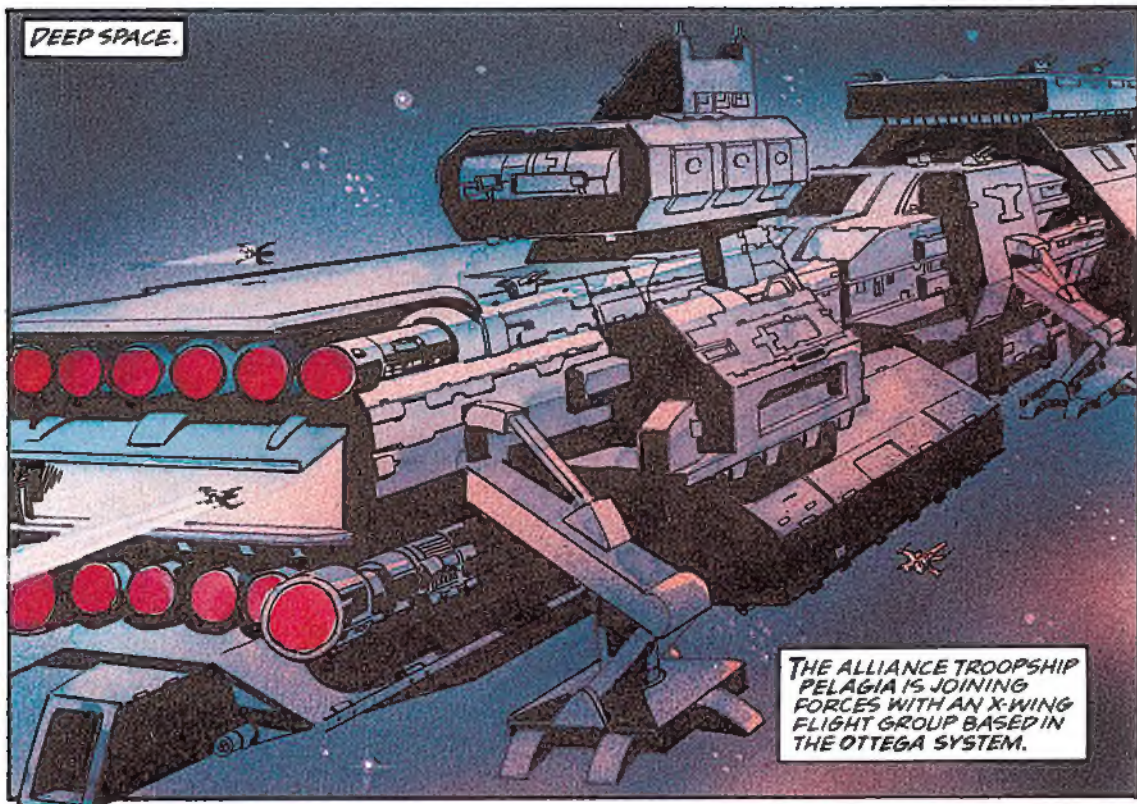
WAIT... I SEE
SOMETHING ELSE...
THE REBEL ALLIANCE
IS IN GREAT
DANGER...



A HUNDRED
THOUSAND REBEL
WARRIORS ARE
ABOUT TO DIE...

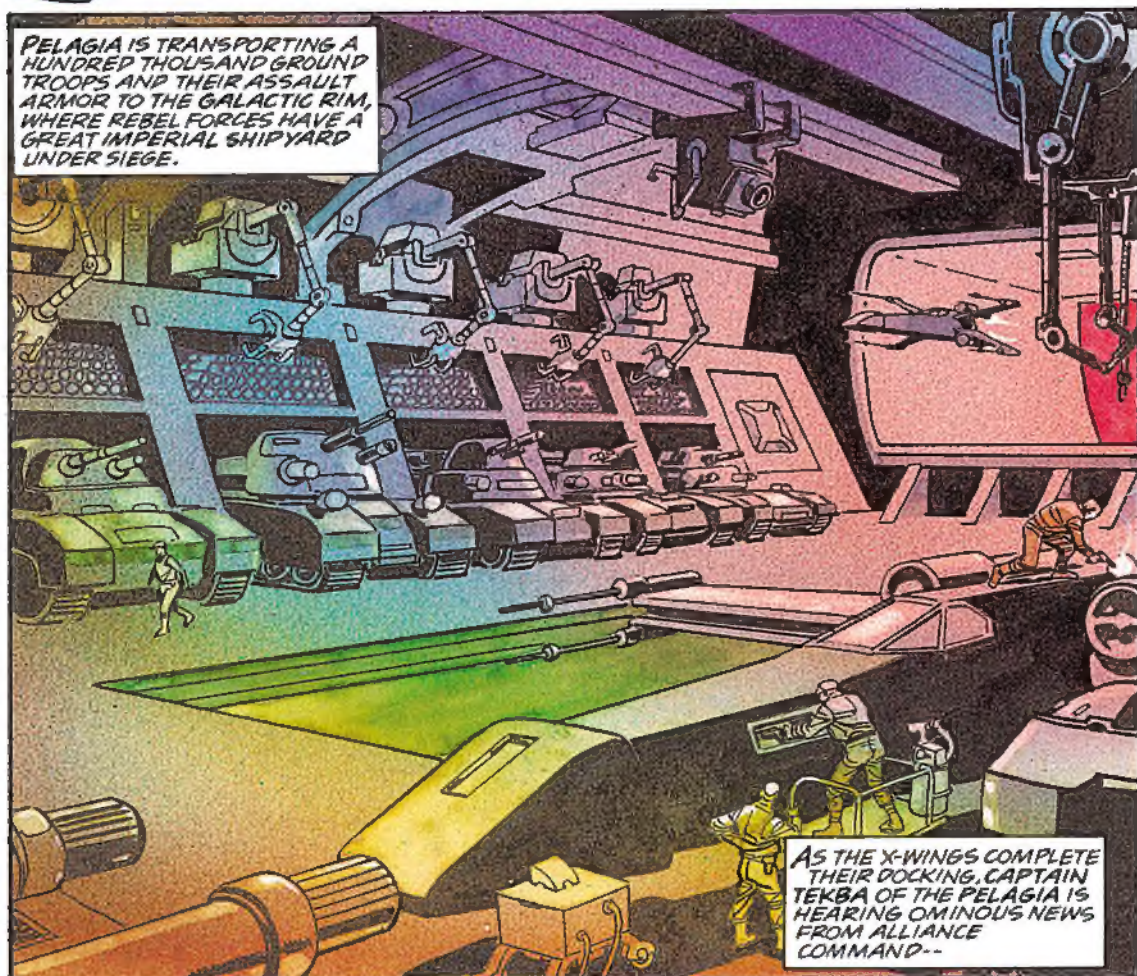
...BY ONE
BLOW OF
THE EMPEROR'S
FIST!

DEEP SPACE.



THE ALLIANCE TROOPSHIP PELAGIA IS JOINING FORCES WITH AN X-WING FLIGHT GROUP BASED IN THE OTTEGA SYSTEM.

PELAGIA IS TRANSPORTING A HUNDRED THOUSAND GROUND TROOPS AND THEIR ASSAULT ARMOR TO THE GALACTIC RIM, WHERE REBEL FORCES HAVE A GREAT IMPERIAL SHIPYARD UNDER SIEGE.



AS THE X-WINGS COMPLETE THEIR DOCKING, CAPTAIN TEKBA OF THE PELAGIA IS HEARING OMINOUS NEWS FROM ALLIANCE COMMAND--



I'M TELLING YOU, CAPTAIN TEKBA, THIS IS THE SAME KIND OF MISSILE THAT DESTROYED PINNACLE BASE!

BUT GENERAL CALRISSIAN--WE'RE NOT FINISHED WITH THE DOCKING MANEUVERS...

...AND IT TAKES HALF AN HOUR TO GET THIS OLD HULK UP TO LIGHT SPEED.

IT HAS FULL SHIELDS AND IS ARMED TO FEND OFF ATTACKS.

YOU HAVE ABOUT TEN MINUTES TO JUMP TO HYPERSPACE!



THEN HIT THE MISSILE WITH EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT!... AND MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU!

PELAGIA, THIS IS GREEN LEADER... WE HAVE ACQUIRED THE TARGET!

AS CAPTAIN TEKBA SCREAMS FRANTIC ORDERS, THE GREAT SHIP'S DEFENSE CANNONS AND X-WING SQUADRONS CONVERGE ON THE DREADED PROJECTILE THE MOMENT IT EMERGES FROM HYPERSPACE!



IMPOSSIBLE! OUR FIRE DOESN'T PENETRATE THEIR SHIELDS! LET'S HOPE YOUR SHIELDS ARE AS GOOD, CAPTAIN TEKBA!

SUBMINIATURE PROBE DRONES FOLLOW THE MISSILE IN... AND TRANSMIT THE MOMENT OF IMPERIAL TRIUMPH ACROSS HYPERSPACE... TO THE PLANET BYSS!

THE REBEL TROOPSHIP IS RETURNED TO THE VOID! THE REBEL ALLIANCE WILL KNOW THEIR DAY IS OVER.

MY EMPEROR, YOUR GALAXY GUN IS THE ULTIMATE TERROR WEAPON. IT HAS GIVEN YOU ABSOLUTE CONTROL.

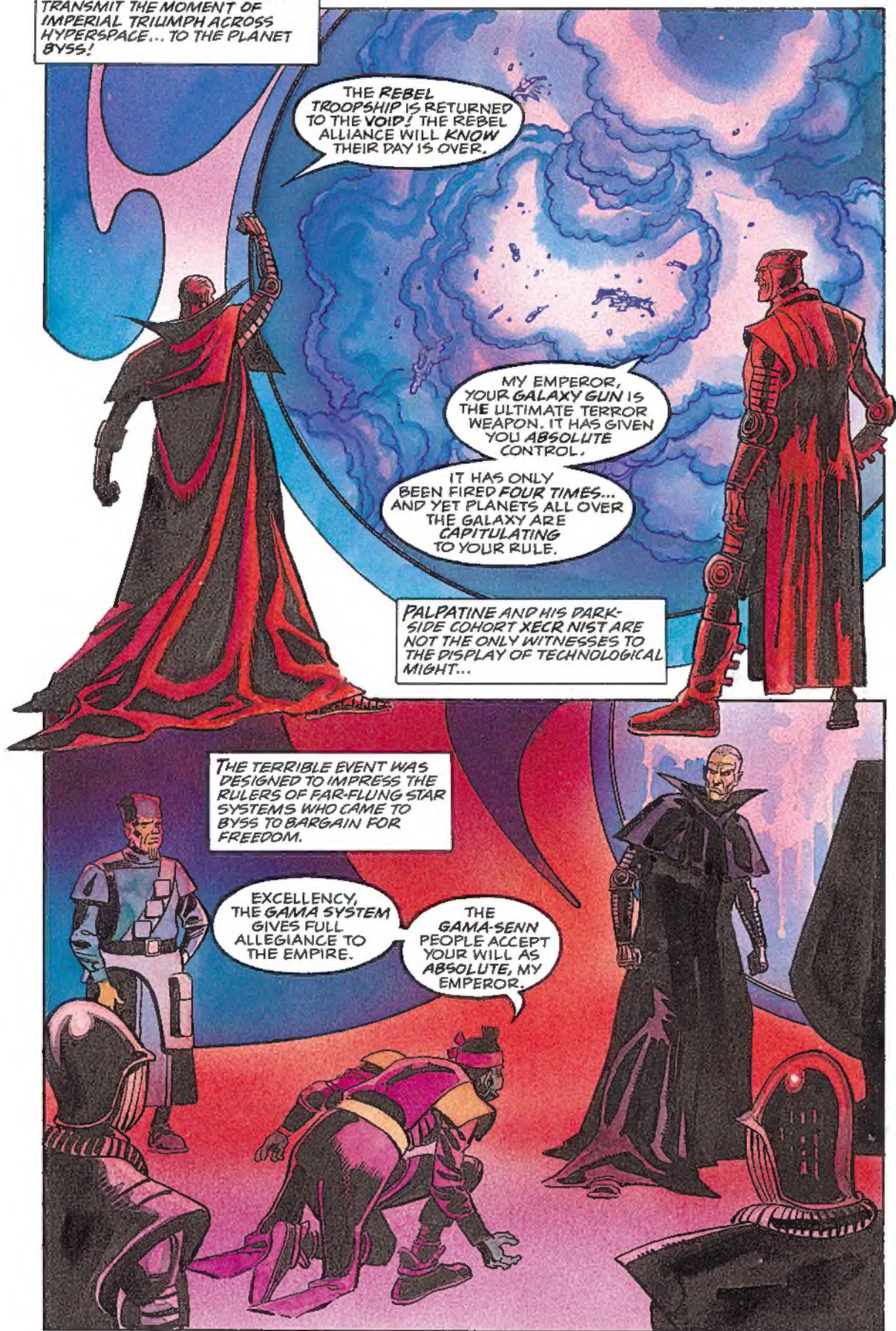
IT HAS ONLY BEEN FIRED FOUR TIMES... AND YET PLANETS ALL OVER THE GALAXY ARE CAPITULATING TO YOUR RULE.

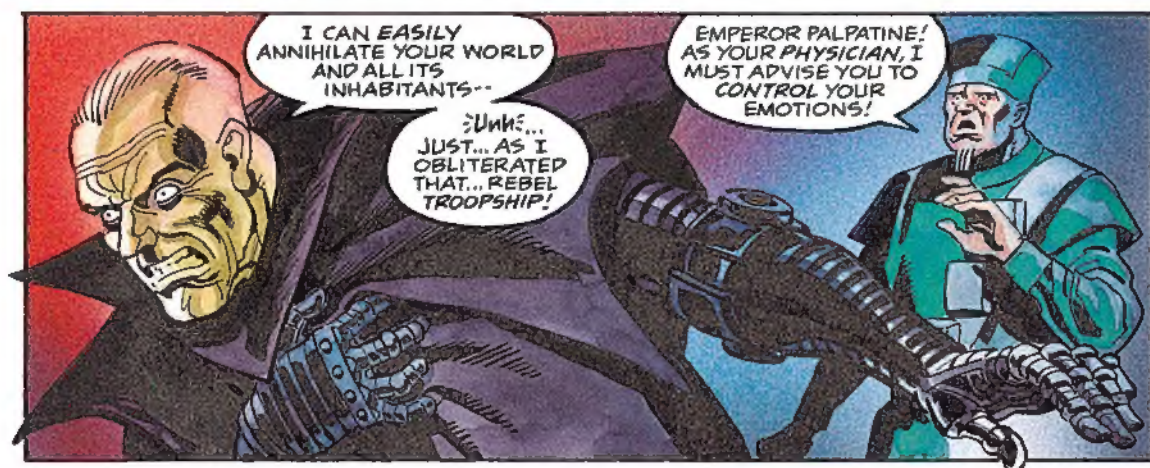
PALPATINE AND HIS DARK-SIDE COHORT XECR NIST ARE NOT THE ONLY WITNESSES TO THE DISPLAY OF TECHNOLOGICAL MIGHT...

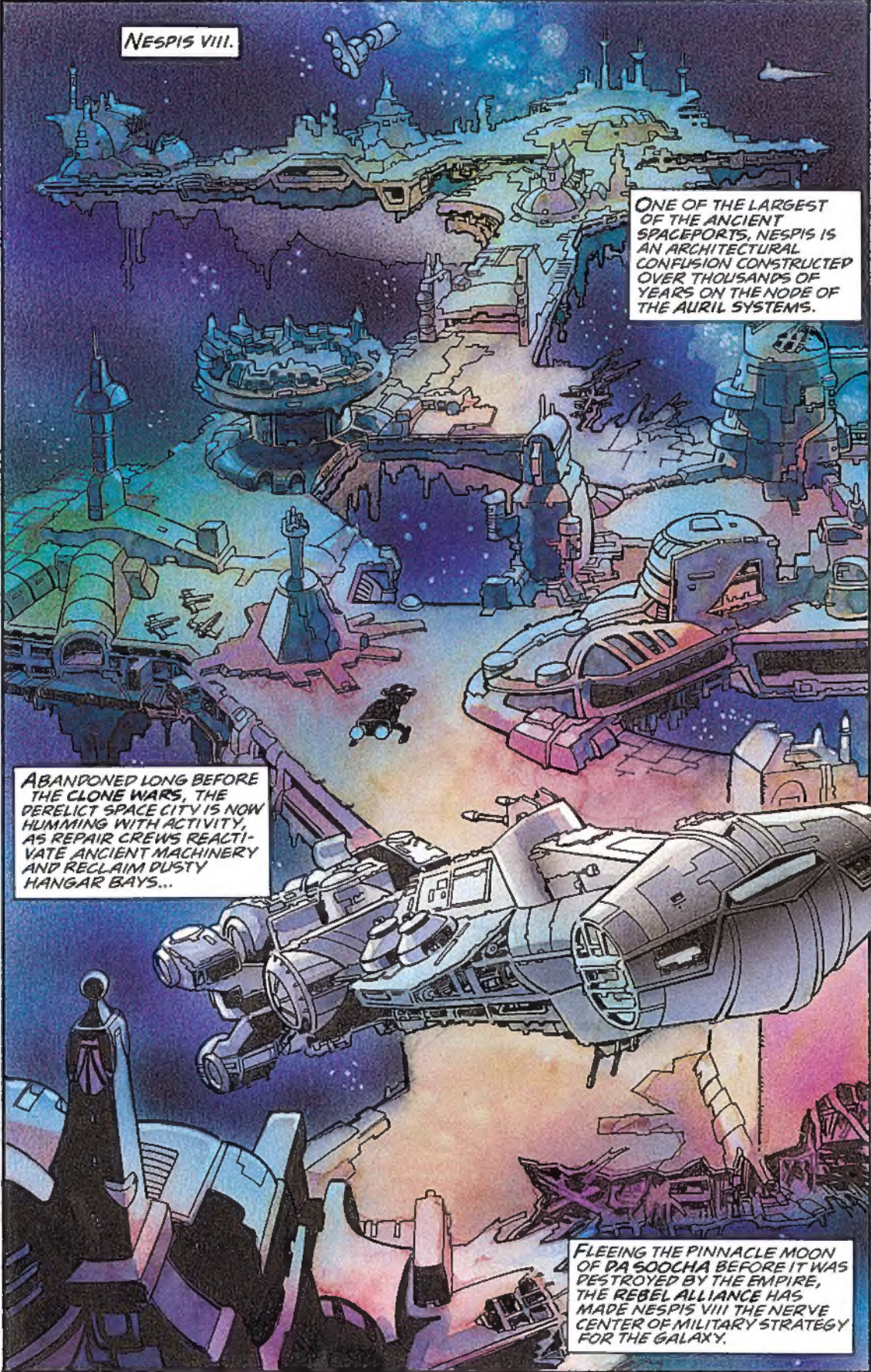
THE TERRIBLE EVENT WAS DESIGNED TO IMPRESS THE RULERS OF FAR-FLUNG STAR SYSTEMS WHO CAME TO BYSS TO BARGAIN FOR FREEDOM.

EXCELLENCY, THE GAMA SYSTEM GIVES FULL ALLEGIANCE TO THE EMPIRE.

THE GAMA-SENN PEOPLE ACCEPT YOUR WILL AS ABSOLUTE, MY EMPEROR.







NESPIS VIII.

ONE OF THE LARGEST OF THE ANCIENT SPACEPORTS, NESPIS IS AN ARCHITECTURAL CONFUSION CONSTRUCTED OVER THOUSANDS OF YEARS ON THE NODE OF THE AURIL SYSTEMS.

ABANDONED LONG BEFORE THE CLONE WARS, THE DERELICT SPACE CITY IS NOW HUMMING WITH ACTIVITY, AS REPAIR CREWS REACTIVATE ANCIENT MACHINERY AND RECLAIM DUSTY HANGAR BAYS...

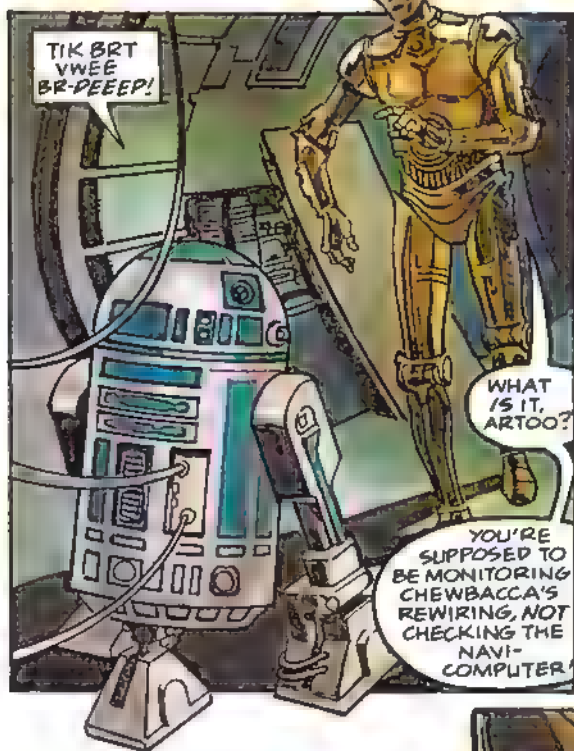
FLEEING THE PINNACLE MOON OF DA SOOCHA BEFORE IT WAS DESTROYED BY THE EMPIRE, THE REBEL ALLIANCE HAS MADE NESPIS VIII THE NERVE CENTER OF MILITARY STRATEGY FOR THE GALAXY.

IN THE MAIN FLEET HANGAR, THE MILLENNIUM FALCON IS BEING RESTORED TO HER FORMER GLORY.

THANKS FOR THE USE OF THE FRONT END, BRAND, BUT IT'S GOOD TO HAVE THE FALCON LOOKING LIKE HER OLD SELF.

AND CHEWIE IS SURE HAPPY TO HAVE HIS ARAKYD MISSILES BACK.

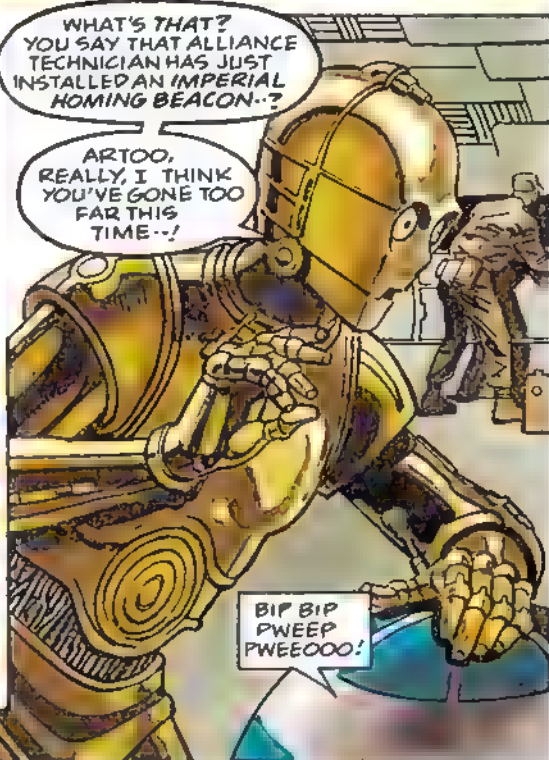
HMMMM... IF YOU SAY SO, SOLO... BUT DON'T FORGET, MY LIGHTNING GUN GOT BOBA FETT FOR YOU.



TIK BRT VWEE BR-PEEP!

WHAT IS IT, ARTOO?

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE MONITORING CHEWBACCA'S REWIRING, NOT CHECKING THE NAVI-COMPUTER.



WHAT'S THAT? YOU SAY THAT ALLIANCE TECHNICIAN HAS JUST INSTALLED AN IMPERIAL HOMING BEACON--?

ARTOO, REALLY, I THINK YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR THIS TIME--!

BIP BIP PWEEP PWEEOOO!

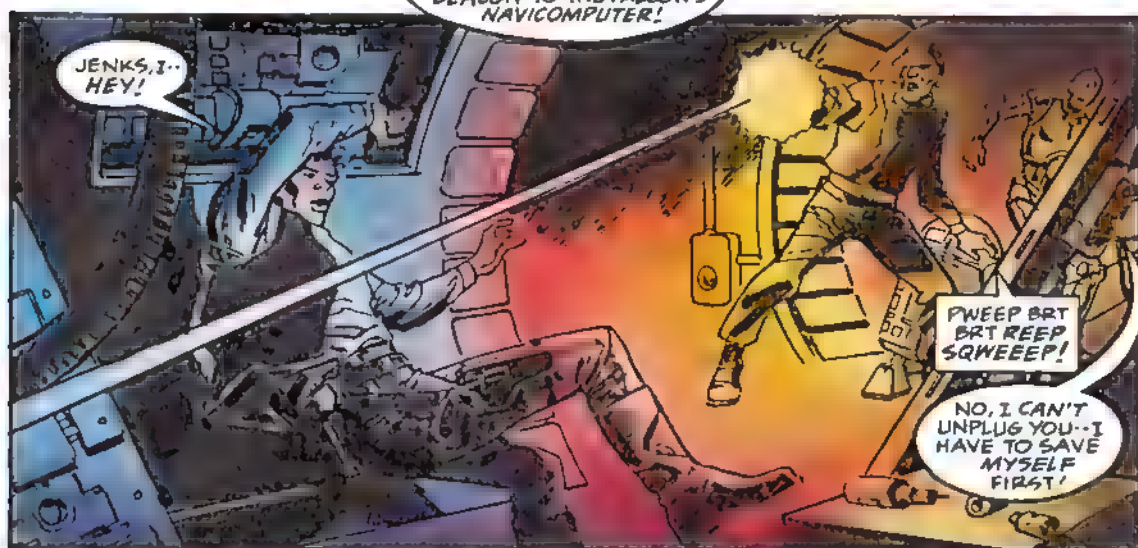


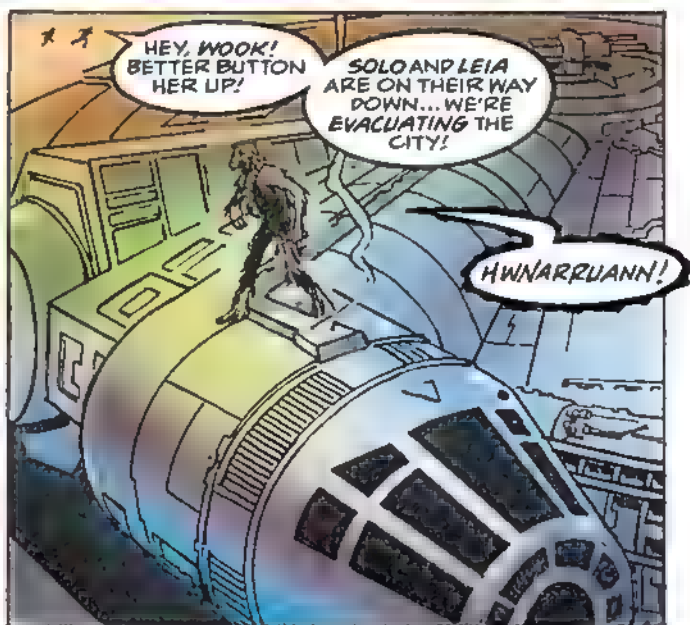
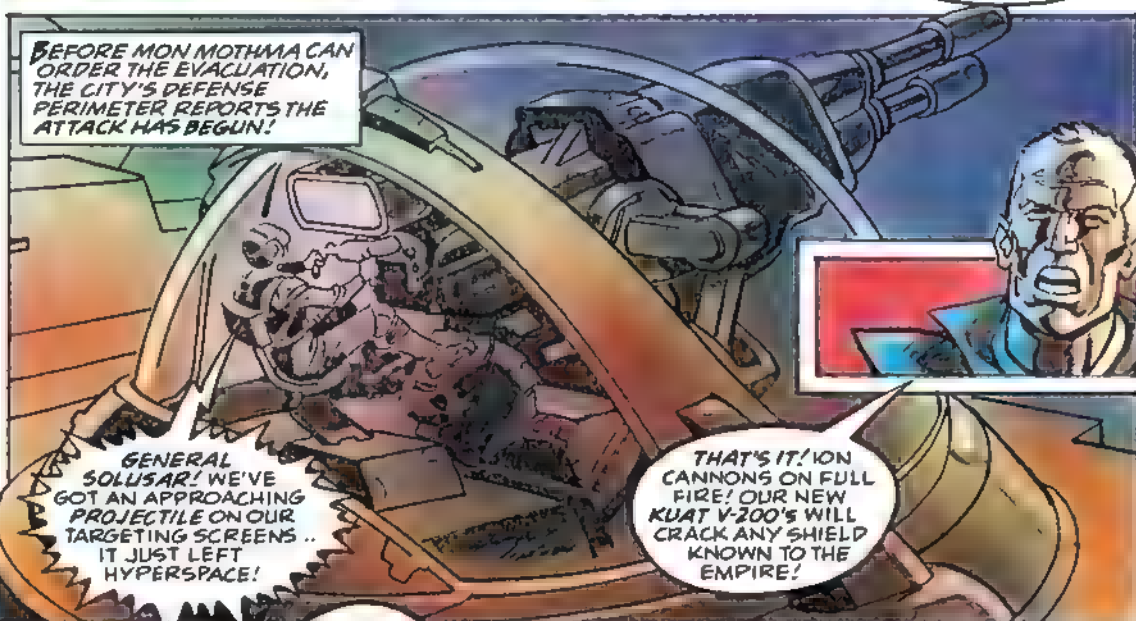
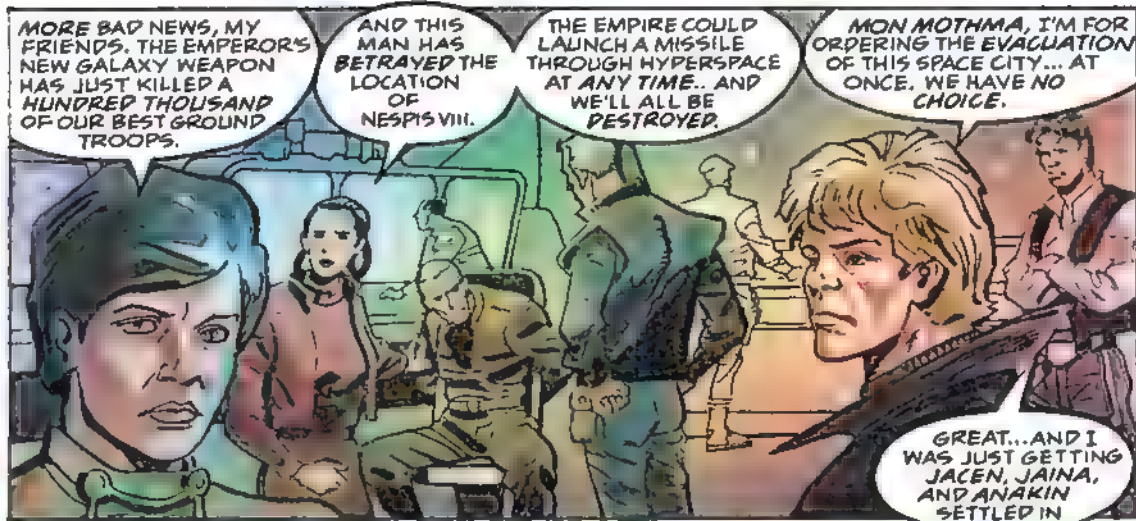
HEY--! WHAT'D I HEAR YOU SAY, DROID?

NOTHING, SIR.. MY COUNTERPART WAS JUST--

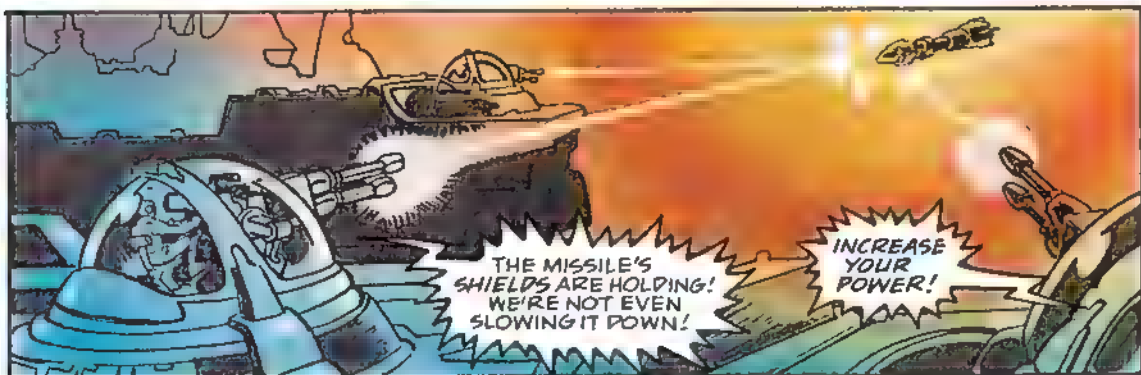
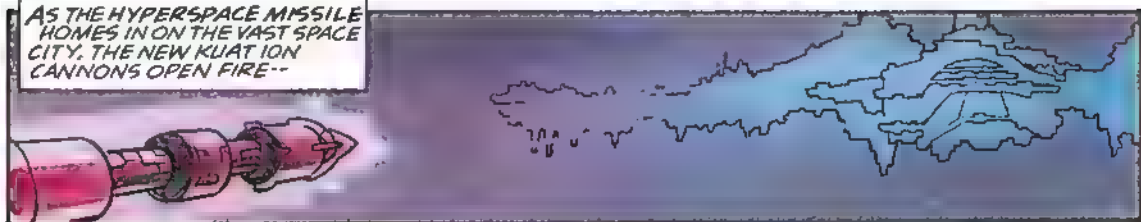
OH, DEAR... I THINK I'D BETTER GO SPEAK TO MASTER HAN ABOUT SOMETHING--

PRPP-A-DOOT!





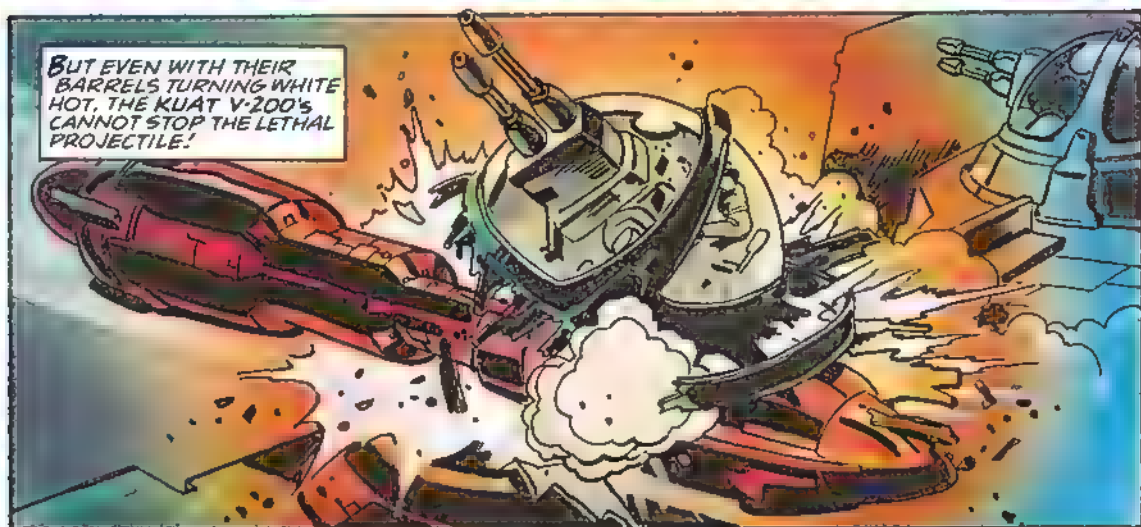
AS THE HYPERSPACE MISSILE
HOMES IN ON THE VAST SPACE
CITY, THE NEW KUAT ION
CANNONS OPEN FIRE--



THE MISSILE'S
SHIELDS ARE HOLDING!
WE'RE NOT EVEN
SLOWING IT DOWN!

INCREASE
YOUR
POWER!

BUT EVEN WITH THEIR
BARRELS TURNING WHITE
HOT, THE KUAT V-200'S
CANNOT STOP THE LETHAL
PROJECTILE!



WE'RE TOO LATE!
THAT THING IS ABOUT
TO BLOW!

WE'RE
ALL GONNA
BE SPACE
DUST!

C'MON, HAN...
MOVE IT!



SLOWED BY THE HANGAR'S THICK WALLS, THE GALAXY MISSILE COMES TO REST-- WITHOUT EXPLODING--IN THE HULL OF A CALAMARI STAR CRUISER.

MUST BE A DELAYED FIRING MECHANISM...IT COULD STILL GO OFF!

CALL THE BOMB CREW!

HEARTS RACING, REBEL TECHS CUT THEIR WAY INTO THE PROJECTILE'S ELECTRONICS--

THAT'S IT, LUKE...THIS THING WAS A DUP. FAULTY BONADAN TIMER.

GREAT... NOTIFY MON MOTHMA! AND EVERYONE GET TO YOUR SHIPS!

TYPICAL IMPERIAL TECHNOLOGY, FORTUNATELY.

THE IMPERIAL MISSILE HAS BEEN DISARMED.

BUT WE ESTIMATE THAT IN LESS THAN AN HOUR WE WILL BE HIT AGAIN... AND THIS TIME WE MAY NOT BE SO LUCKY.

CONTINUE THE EVACUATION! WE WILL RENDEZVOUS IN DEEP SPACE AT 0300 HOURS!

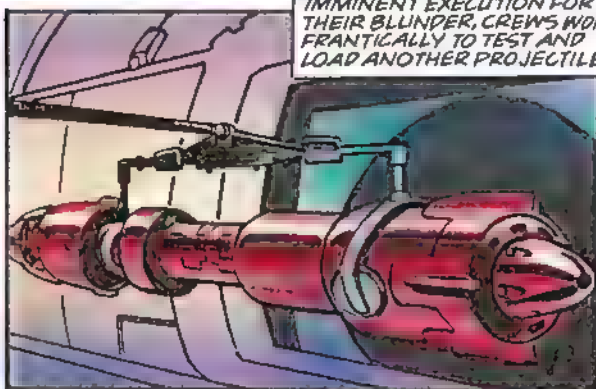
THE EMPEROR'S REMOTE PROBE DRONES RECORD THE FAILURE OF HIS GLORIOUS GALAXY WEAPON.

UNTHINKABLE!

ARM
ANOTHER PROJECTILE!
AT ONCE!

I'LL HAVE
UMAK LETH'S
HEART FOR
THIS!

UNDER THE THREAT OF
IMMINENT EXECUTION FOR
THEIR BLUNDER, CREWS WORK
FRANTICALLY TO TEST AND
LOAD ANOTHER PROJECTILE...

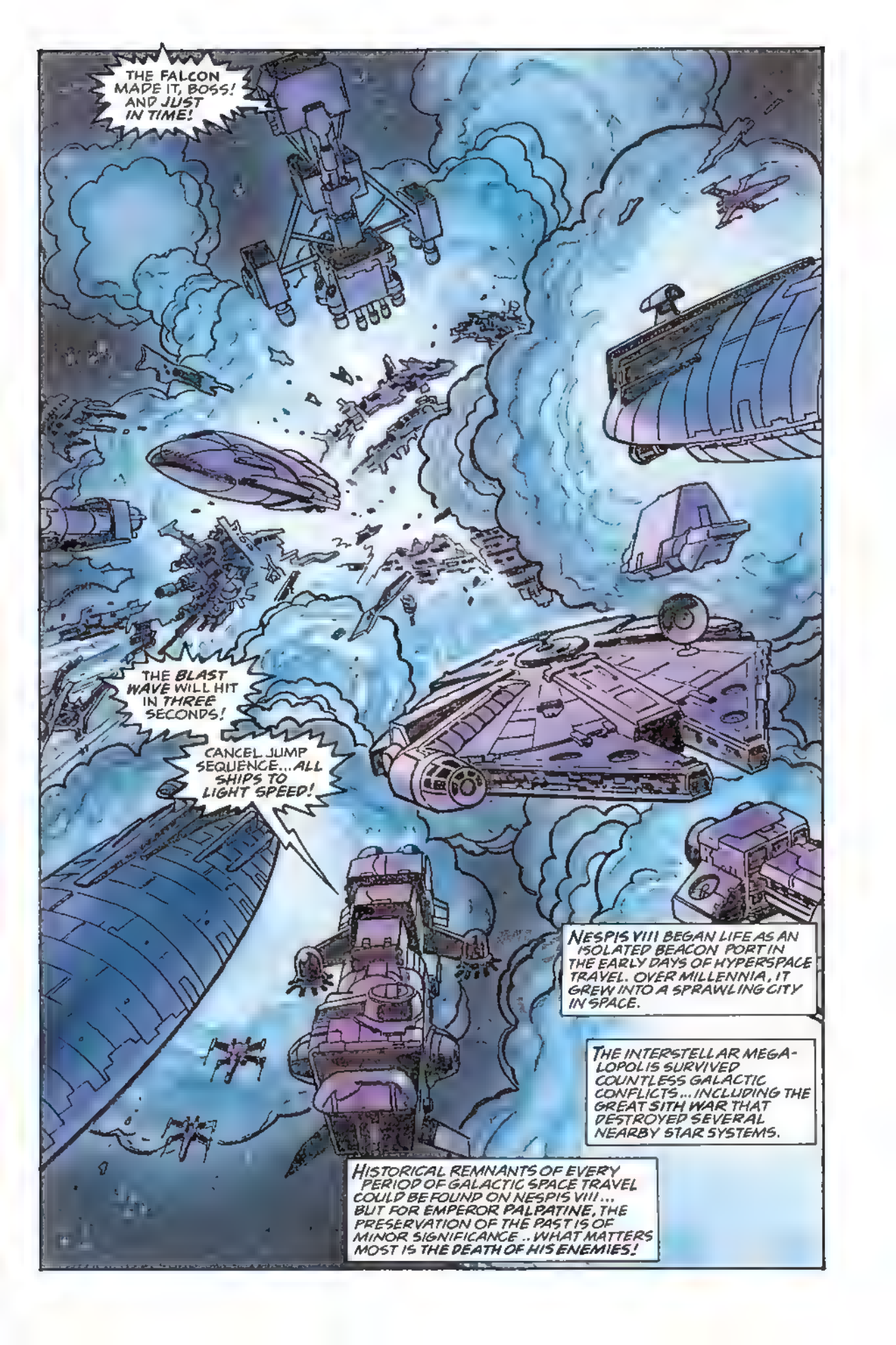


--A DELAY THAT PROVIDES A
WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY
FOR THE REBEL ALLIANCE!

WE'RE
AWAY! INITIATE
FLEET JUMP
SEQUENCE!

DID THE
MILLENNIUM
FALCON
MAKE
IT OUT?

WE'RE NOT
SURE... CHEWBACCA
WAS HAVING TROUBLE
IGNITING THE FALCON'S
SUBLIGHTS!

A detailed illustration of a space battle. In the upper left, a large, complex mechanical structure resembling a space station or a large ship is being attacked. Debris is flying everywhere. In the center, a large, flat, rectangular ship is being hit. To the right, a large, curved ship is visible. In the foreground, a large, cylindrical ship is being attacked. The background is filled with smoke and fire.

THE FALCON
MADE IT, BOSS!
AND JUST
IN TIME!

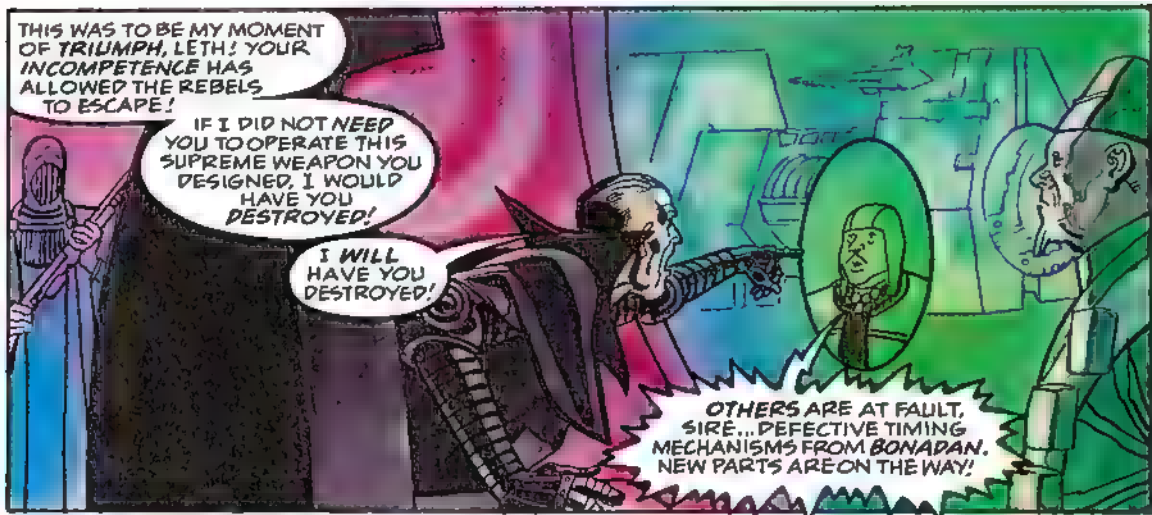
THE BLAST
WAVE WILL HIT
IN THREE
SECONDS!

CANCEL JUMP
SEQUENCE...ALL
SHIPS TO
LIGHT SPEED!

NESPIS VIII BEGAN LIFE AS AN
ISOLATED BEACON PORT IN
THE EARLY DAYS OF HYPERSPACE
TRAVEL. OVER MILLENNIA, IT
GREW INTO A SPRAWLING CITY
IN SPACE.

THE INTERSTELLAR MEGA-
LOPOLIS SURVIVED
COUNTLESS GALACTIC
CONFLICTS...INCLUDING THE
GREAT SITH WAR THAT
DESTROYED SEVERAL
NEARBY STAR SYSTEMS.

HISTORICAL REMNANTS OF EVERY
PERIOD OF GALACTIC SPACE TRAVEL
COULD BE FOUND ON NESPIS VIII...
BUT FOR EMPEROR PALPATINE, THE
PRESERVATION OF THE PAST IS OF
MINOR SIGNIFICANCE...WHAT MATTERS
MOST IS THE DEATH OF HIS ENEMIES!



THIS WAS TO BE MY MOMENT OF TRIUMPH, LETH! YOUR INCOMPETENCE HAS ALLOWED THE REBELS TO ESCAPE!

IF I DID NOT NEED YOU TO OPERATE THIS SUPREME WEAPON YOU DESIGNED, I WOULD HAVE YOU DESTROYED!

I WILL HAVE YOU DESTROYED!

OTHERS ARE AT FAULT, SIRE... DEFECTIVE TIMING MECHANISMS FROM BONADAN. NEW PARTS ARE ON THE WAY!

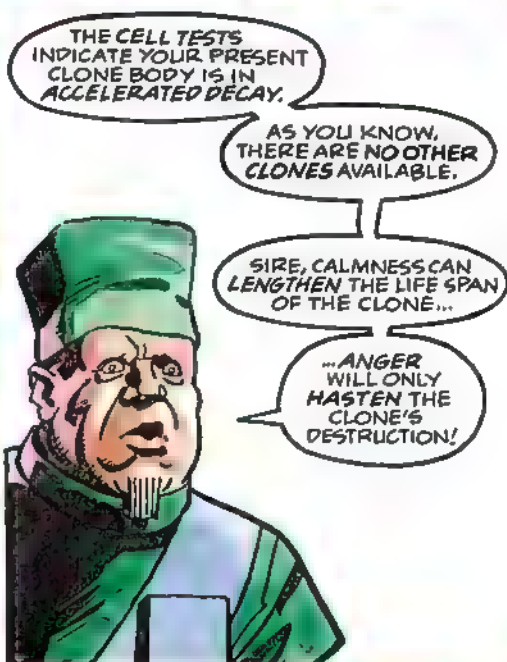


THE RESPONSIBILITY IS YOURS! YOU HAVE THREE DAYS TO PUT THE GALAXY WEAPON'S SYSTEMS IN ORDER.

WHEN WE RESUME FIRING, THE GUN WILL WORK PERFECTLY... OR YOU WILL DIE.

IT WILL BE AS YOU COMMAND, MY EMPEROR.

EXCELLENCE... PLEASE CALM YOURSELF!



THE CELL TESTS INDICATE YOUR PRESENT CLONE BODY IS IN ACCELERATED DECAY.

AS YOU KNOW, THERE ARE NO OTHER CLONES AVAILABLE.

SIRE, CALMNESS CAN LENGTHEN THE LIFE SPAN OF THE CLONE...

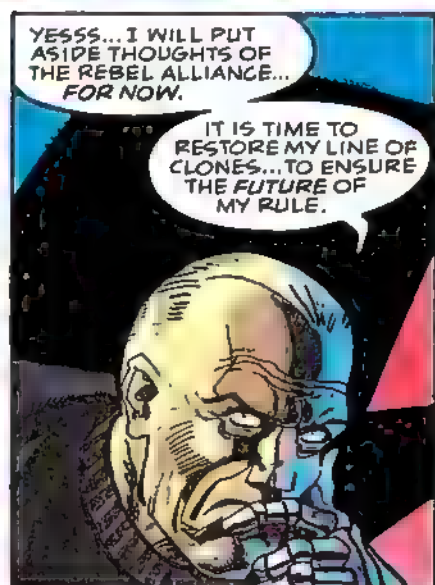
...ANGER WILL ONLY HASTEN THE CLONE'S DESTRUCTION!



EMPEROR PALPATINE DOES NOT RELISH THE PROSPECT OF DEATH WITHOUT REINCARNATION.

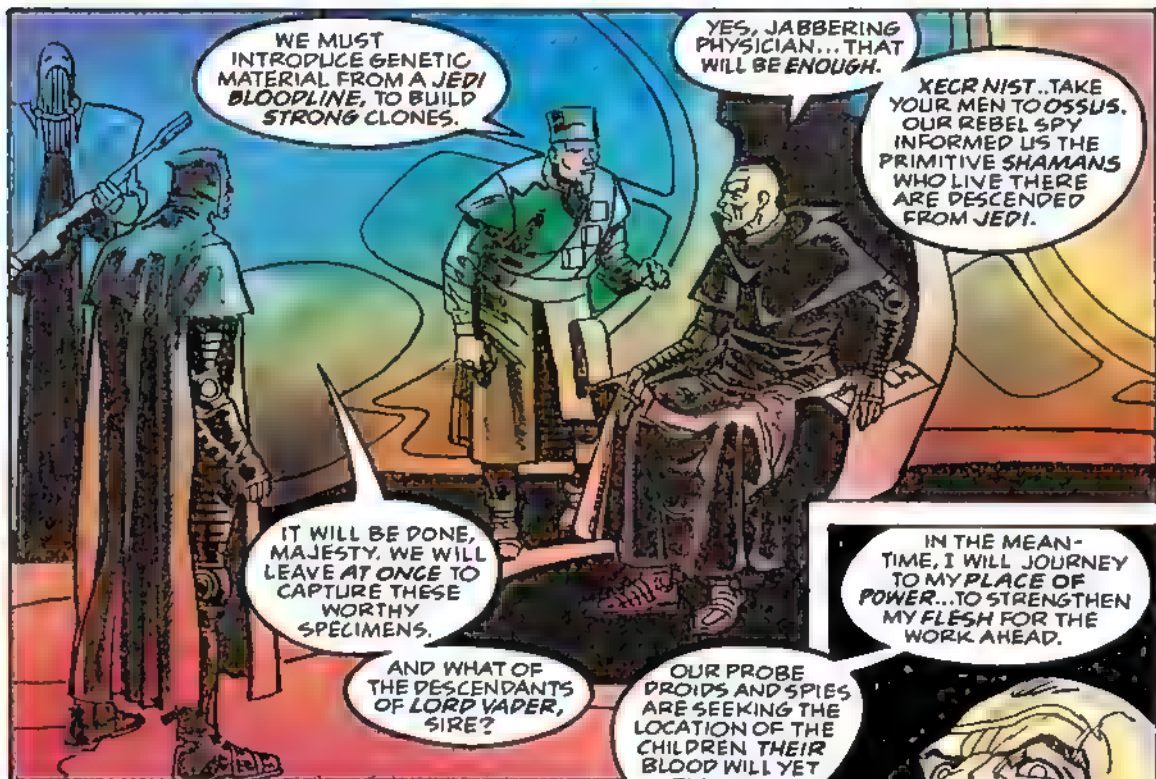
THE EMPEROR KNOWS THAT DISEMBODIMENT IN THE DARK SIDE IS PERPETUAL MADNESS... AS IF TO LIVE FOREVER LIKE AN OPEN WOUND, EXPERIENCING TERROR WITHOUT RESPIRE.

THAT IS A FATE PALPATINE WANTS TO POSTPONE, AT ALL COSTS.



YESSS... I WILL PUT ASIDE THOUGHTS OF THE REBEL ALLIANCE... FOR NOW.

IT IS TIME TO RESTORE MY LINE OF CLONES... TO ENSURE THE FUTURE OF MY RULE.



WE MUST INTRODUCE GENETIC MATERIAL FROM A JEDI BLOODLINE, TO BUILD STRONG CLONES.

YES, JABBERING PHYSICIAN... THAT WILL BE ENOUGH.

XECR NIST..TAKE YOUR MEN TO OSSUS. OUR REBEL SPY INFORMED US THE PRIMITIVE SHAMANS WHO LIVE THERE ARE DESCENDED FROM JEDI.

IT WILL BE DONE, MAJESTY. WE WILL LEAVE AT ONCE TO CAPTURE THESE WORTHY SPECIMENS.

AND WHAT OF THE DESCENDANTS OF LORD VADER, SIRE?

OUR PROBE DROIDS AND SPIES ARE SEEKING THE LOCATION OF THE CHILDREN THEIR BLOOD WILL YET FLOW IN MINE!

IN THE MEAN-TIME, I WILL JOURNEY TO MY PLACE OF POWER...TO STRENGTHEN MY FLESH FOR THE WORK AHEAD.

PREPARE MY FLAGSHIP.

AS HIS AGENTS FAN OUT ACROSS THE GALAXY, THE EMPEROR TAKES HIS MOST TRUSTED AIDES ABOARD HIS NEWLY COMPLETED STARSHIP ECLIPSE II.

WITHIN THE HOUR, HE WILL CROSS HYPERSPACE TO A WORLD WHOSE DARK-SIDE SECRETS ARE SAID TO RESTORE THE LIVING... AND THE DEAD!

DEEP SPACE.

THE REBEL ALLIANCE IS ASSEMBLING IN AN OUT-LYING REGION BEYOND THE GALACTIC RIM

THE REBEL LEADERS ARE HUNTED PREY, SUBJECT AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE TO BEING FIRED UPON, WITH DEADLY ACCURACY, BY A WEAPON THAT IS MANY THOUSANDS OF LIGHT-YEARS AWAY.

WE'RE SITTING MYNOCKS OUT HERE... WE MUST FIND A PLANET WHERE WE CAN REMAIN SECURE UNTIL THE HYPERSPACE WEAPON IS DESTROYED.

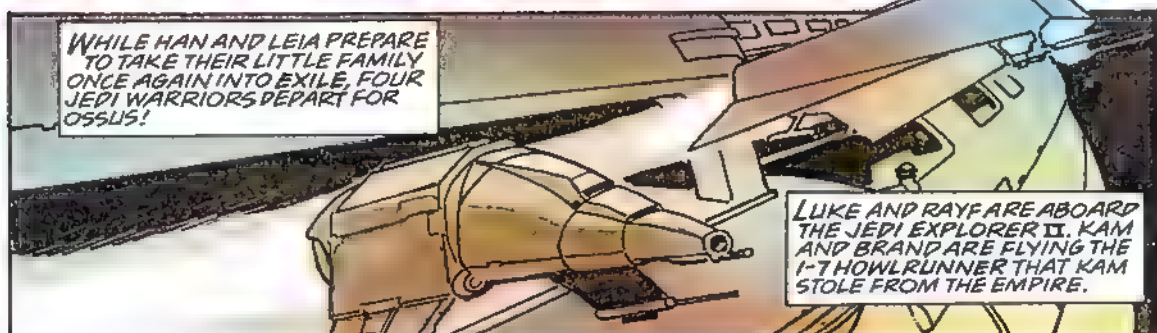
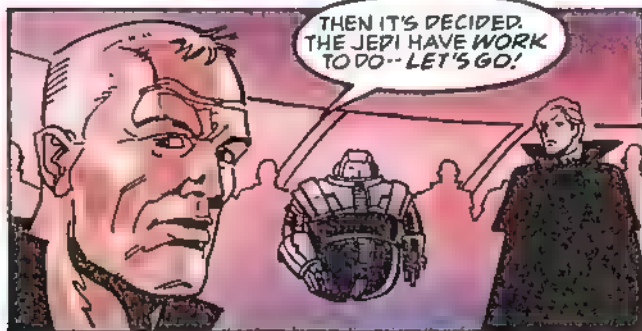
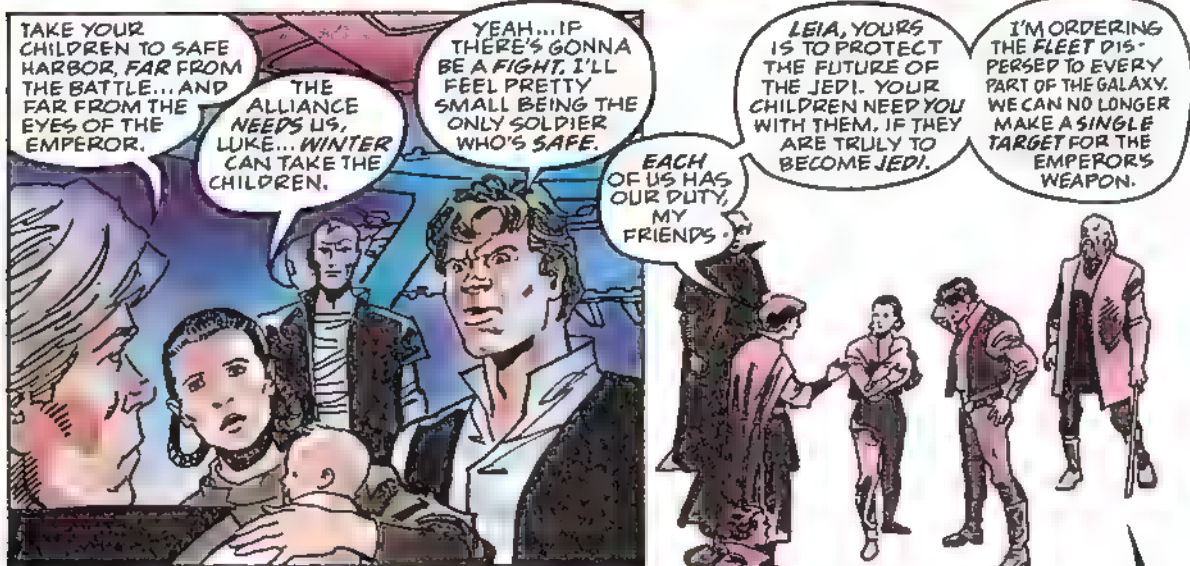
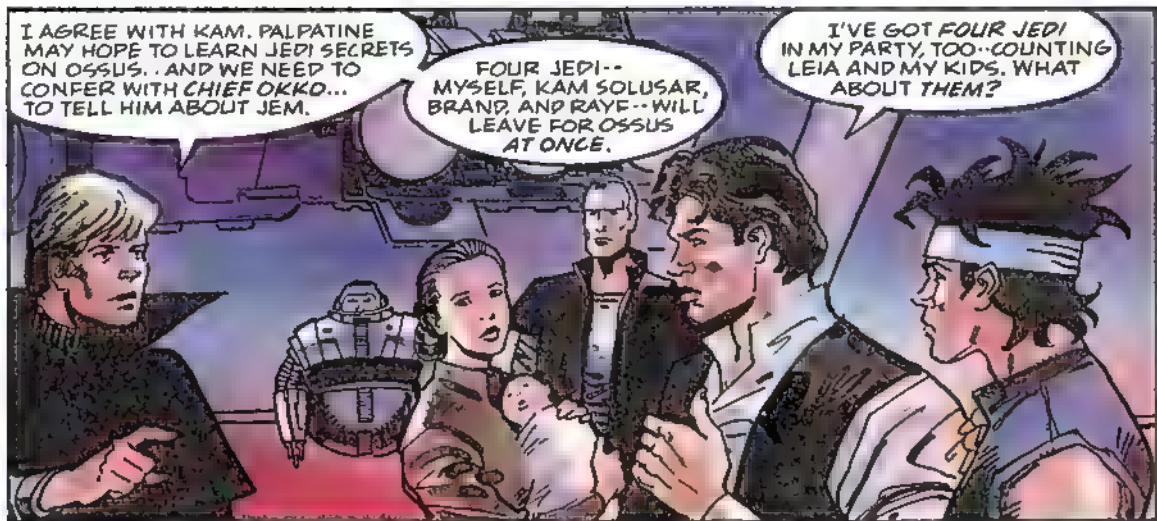
WHAT ABOUT OSSUS, LUKE? EVEN IF WE ARE DISCOVERED, THE EMPEROR WON'T BLOW IT UP... HE'LL WANT TO PRESERVE THE JEDI ARTIFACTS.

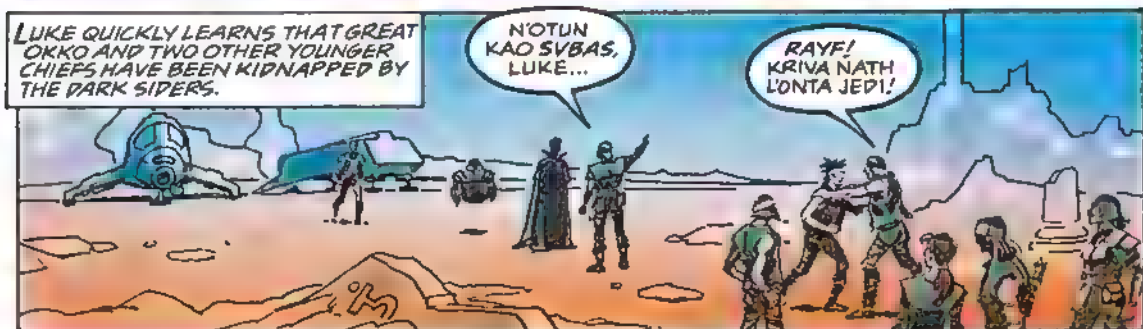
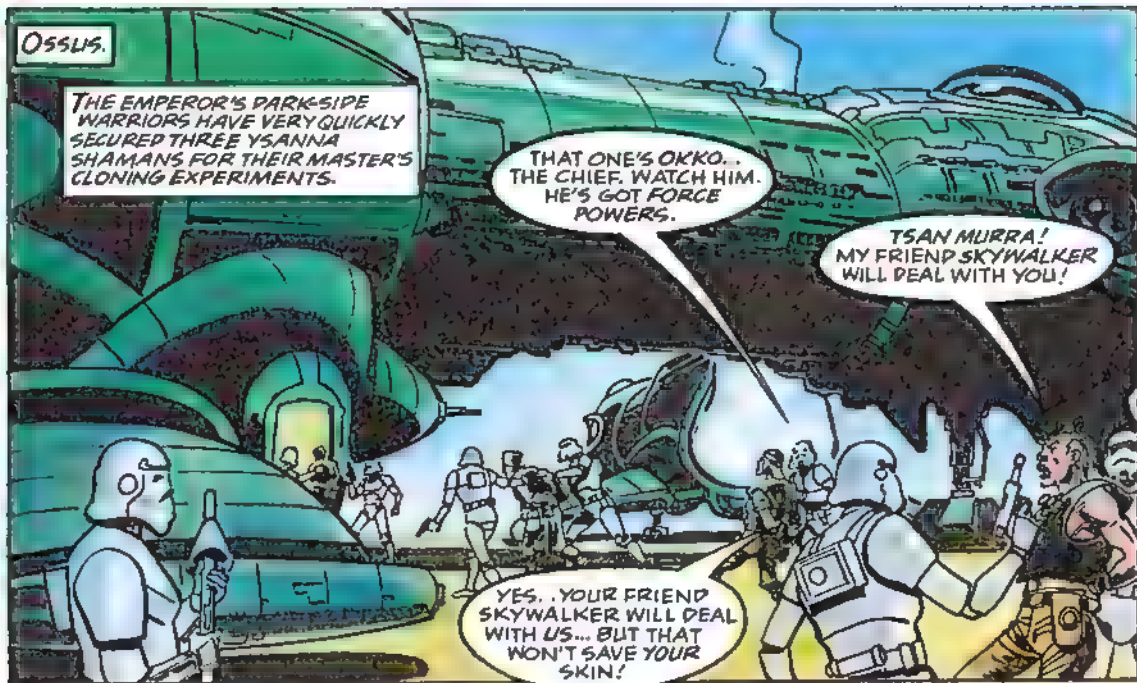
YOU'RE CRAZY HE BLEW UP NESPIS WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT ANY 'ARTIFACTS'

I'VE GOT AN IDEA..

--THERE ARE BIG CAVERNS ON OSSUS, WHERE THE ANCIENT JEDI HID THEIR FAMILIES DURING THE SITH WAR.

ME AND JEM USED TO EXPLORE THEM.. I CAN TAKE YOU THERE.

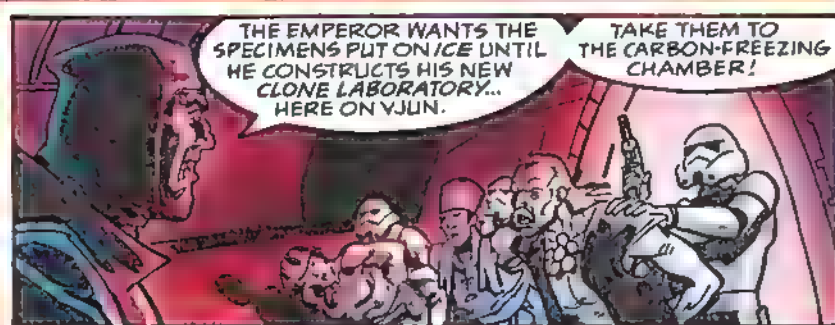




THE PLANET VJUN..

... THE DESOLATE, LIFELESS
WORLD WHERE DARTH VADER
BUILT HIS PERSONAL STRONG-
HOLD-- BAST CASTLE.

BY IMPERIAL EDICT, THE FORTRESS
BECAME THE HEADQUARTERS OF
DARK-SIDE EXECUTOR SEDRISS. NOW
THAT SEDRISS IS DEAD, XECR NIST
HAS TAKEN POSSESSION!



AS THE DARK SIDERS DISPOSE
OF THEIR YSANNA PRISONERS,
VIGILANT SENTRIES SCAN THE
OVERCAST SKIES... XECR NIST
KNEW HE WAS BEING FOLLOWED.

TWO VESSELS
APPROACHING, LORD
NIST. ONE OF THEM IS
OUR MISSING
HOWL RUNNER. THE
OTHER IS A REBEL
SHIP.

THAT'S THEM!
CLOSE THE BLAST
GATES!

DEMONSTRATE
OUR FIREPOWER...
BUT ALLOW THEM
TO LAND.



IN SPITE OF ITS EXTREME ISOLATION, BAST CASTLE IS HEAVILY DEFENDED FROM POTENTIAL ATTACK.

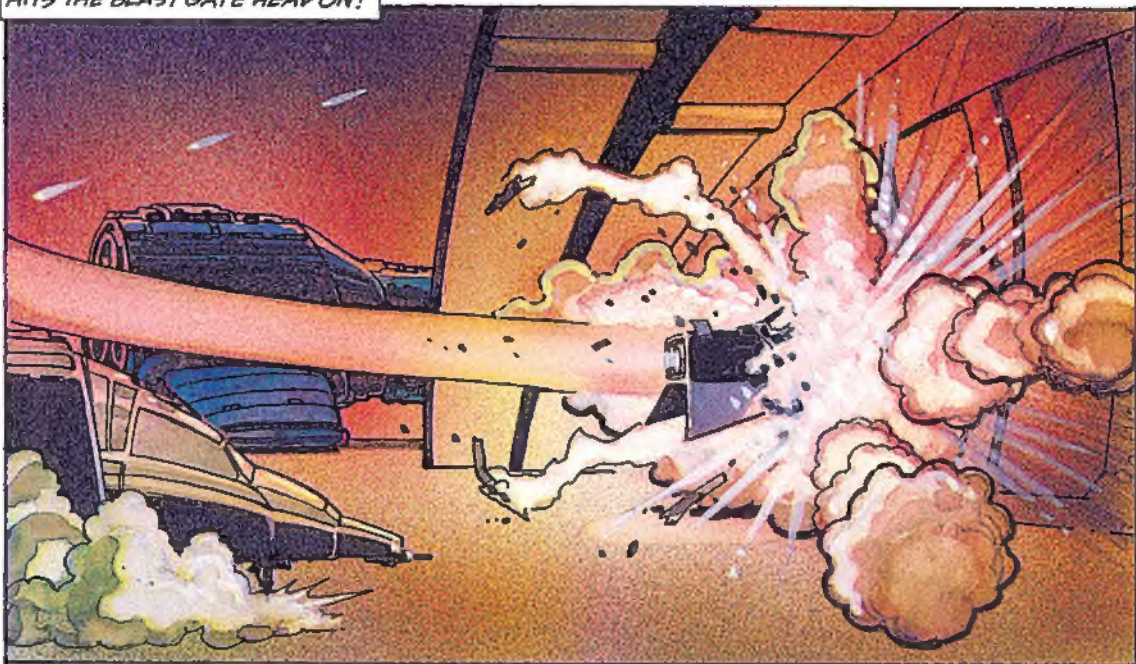
THEY'RE LOWERING A BLAST WALL--

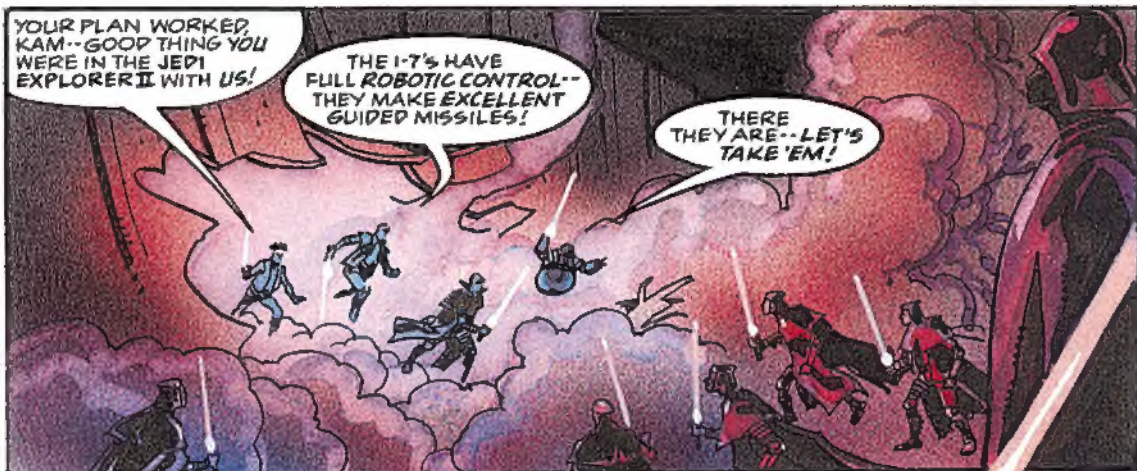
--I HOPE YOUR PLAN IS STILL GOING TO WORK!

IT'LL WORK... IT'LL WORK.

THE TWO JEDI SHIPS SCREAM IN THROUGH A WEB OF LASER BLASTS. LUKE'S JEDI EXPLORER II SETTLES SAFELY TO THE LANDING PAD...

...BUT SALUSAR'S HOWL RUNNER HITS THE BLAST GATE HEAD ON!





YOUR PLAN WORKED, KAM--GOOD THING YOU WERE IN THE JEDI EXPLORER II WITH US!

THE I-7'S HAVE FULL ROBOTIC CONTROL-- THEY MAKE EXCELLENT GUIDED MISSILES!

THERE THEY ARE--LET'S TAKE 'EM!

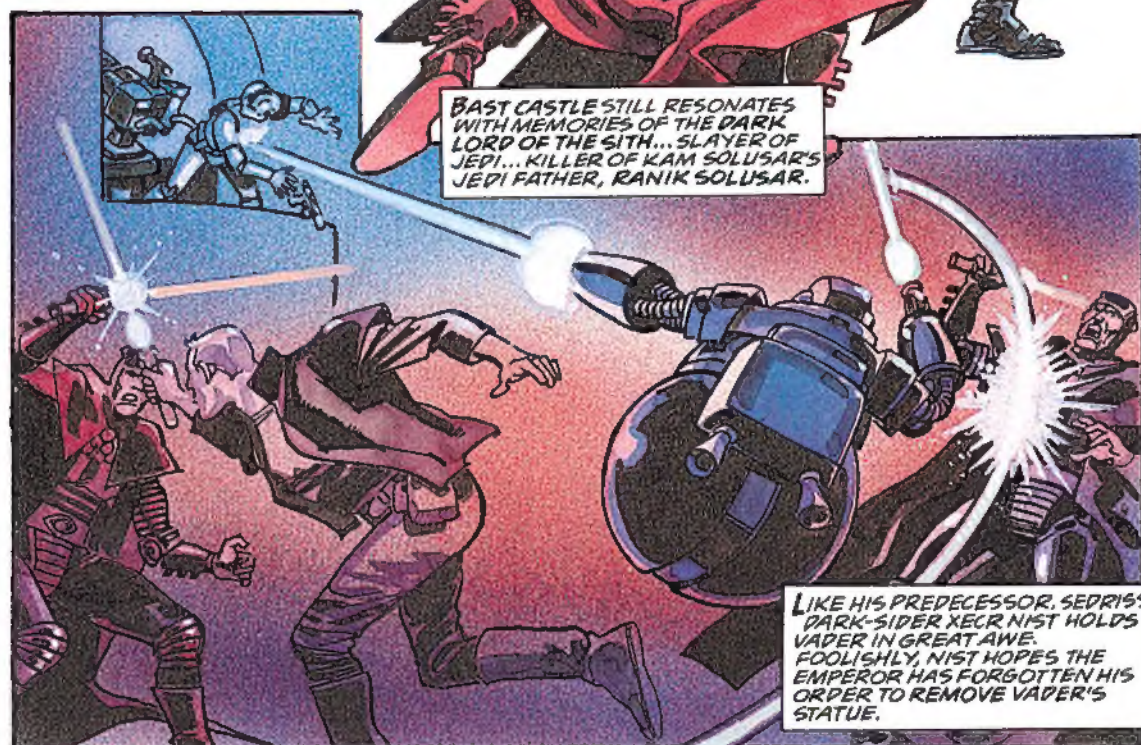


WHAT, SKYWALKER-- YOU ARE USING CHILDREN TO HELP YOU WIN YOUR WAR?

THE SONS OF THE JEDI ARE STRONG IN THE FORCE--



--AS WAS MY SISTER!



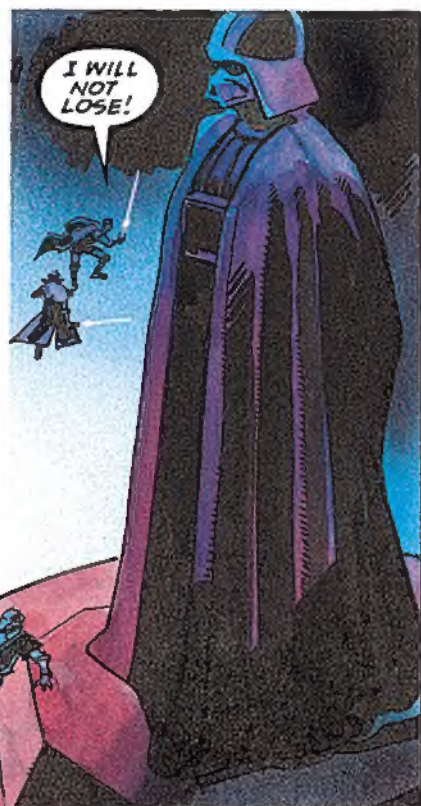
BAST CASTLE STILL RESONATES WITH MEMORIES OF THE DARK LORD OF THE SITH... SLAYER OF JEDI... KILLER OF KAM SOLUSAR'S JEDI FATHER, RANIK SOLUSAR.

LIKE HIS PREDECESSOR, SEDRISS, DARK-SIDER XECR NIST HOLDS VADER IN GREAT AWE. FOOLISHLY, NIST HOPES THE EMPEROR HAS FORGOTTEN HIS ORDER TO REMOVE VADER'S STATUE.



THE EMPEROR HAS PROMISED ME AN ENTIRE STAR SYSTEM IF I BRING HIM YOUR DEAD BODY.

AND WHAT HAS HE PROMISED YOU IF YOU LOSE?



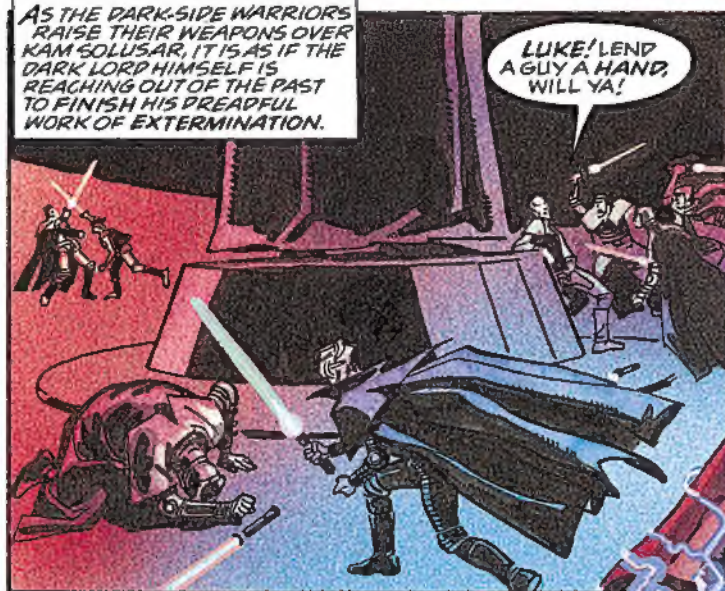
I WILL NOT LOSE!

NIST! THE EMPEROR ALSO ORDERED YOU TO DESTROY VADER'S STATUE...

...A FEW JEDI CORPSES MAY HELP HIM OVERLOOK YOUR INSUBORDINATION!



AS THE DARK-SIDE WARRIORS RAISE THEIR WEAPONS OVER KAM SOLUSAR, IT IS AS IF THE DARK LORD HIMSELF IS REACHING OUT OF THE PAST TO FINISH HIS DREADFUL WORK OF EXTERMINATION.



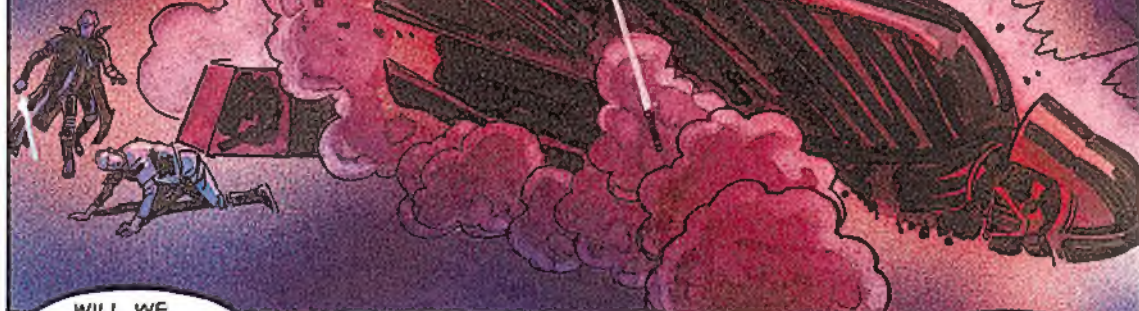
LUKE! LEND A GUY A HAND, WILL YA!



I'M SORRY TO HEAR YOU'VE DISOBEYED YOUR EMPEROR, NIST--

--MAYBE I CAN HELP YOU FULFILL YOUR DUTY--

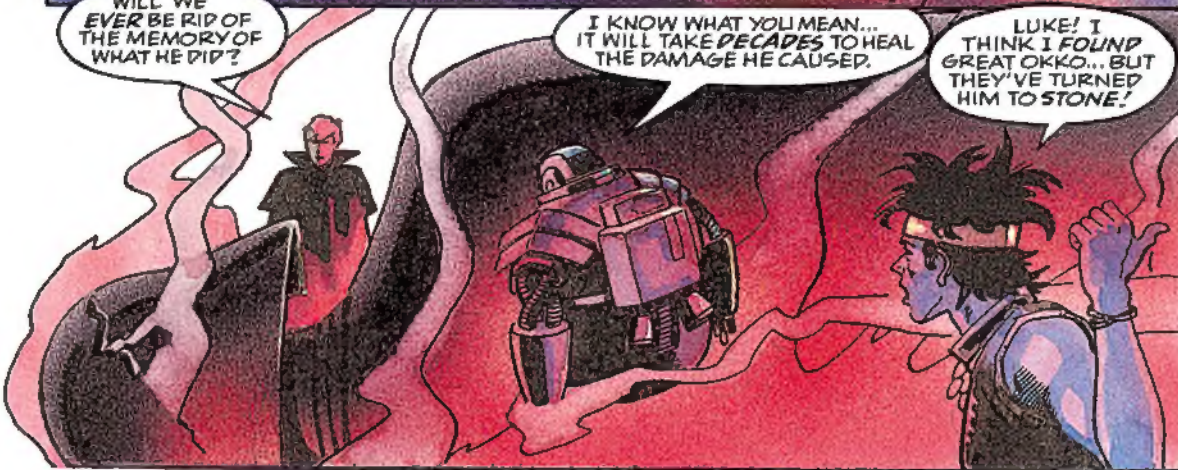
WITH THE POWER OF THE FORCE, LUKE TOPPLES THE TOWERING EFFIGY ERECTED BY EXECUTOR SEDRISS TO HONOR THE DARK LORD OF THE SITH.



WILL WE EVER BE RID OF THE MEMORY OF WHAT HE DID?

I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN... IT WILL TAKE *DECADES* TO HEAL THE DAMAGE HE CAUSED.

LUKE! I THINK I FOUND GREAT OKKO... BUT THEY'VE TURNED HIM TO STONE!

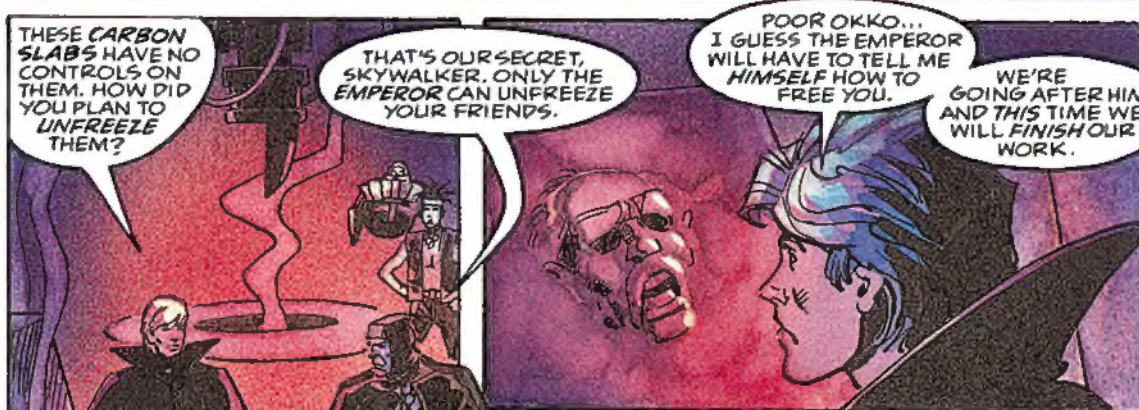


THESE CARBON SLABS HAVE NO CONTROLS ON THEM. HOW DID YOU PLAN TO UNFREEZE THEM?

THAT'S OUR SECRET, SKYWALKER. ONLY THE EMPEROR CAN UNFREEZE YOUR FRIENDS.

POOR OKKO... I GUESS THE EMPEROR WILL HAVE TO TELL ME HIMSELF HOW TO FREE YOU.

WE'RE GOING AFTER HIM. AND THIS TIME WE WILL FINISH OUR WORK.



YOU MAY IMPRISON ME, SKYWALKER... BUT THE EMPEROR IS ONE WHO CANNOT BE DEFEATED.

ON THE CONTRARY, NIST. IN THE NAME OF ALL THE JEDI, I AM THE ONE WHO WILL DEFEAT HIM!

